



Press Release

Commander Navy Installations Command

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**ALL MILITARY, DON CIVILIANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE GULF
REGIONS ARE ASKED TO CALL THE KATRINA HOTLINE AT 1-877-414-
5358 TO CHECK IN AND RECEIVE INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE.**

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NAVY MWR SUPPORTING DISPLACED SAILORS, FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Planning and efforts are underway to meet the recreational needs of Sailors and family members displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and the needs of military members responding to the crisis.

According to Chris Mehrer, head of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) branch at Commander Navy Installations Command (CNI) headquarters, several things are being done at Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss., where many of the displaced personnel and those responding to the hurricane's aftermath are located. These include providing 8-mm movies, as well as "deployment kits" – 150-quart coolers full of games, balls, gloves and various other recreational equipment, containers normally provided for forward-deployed troops.

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And, Mehrer added, CNI and the Navy regions and installations are in the process of making an assessment of what is on hand and what is needed around the country – facilities, equipment and personnel. Once the assessment is complete, a plan will be developed and carried out to meet those needs.

One aspect envisioned is emergency hiring plans to fill the need for personnel, in some cases offering employment to family members who may have been displaced.

Mehrer said that a job bank of MWR jobs that need to be filled is already in place at Meridian, and that it was anticipated that some of those jobs may be filled by those displaced to the Meridian area.

The bottom line, according to Mehrer, is to meet the needs of Sailors and their families. He said that the Navy MWR organization would do “whatever we can do to make this less painful for our folks.”